

City of Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee

Meeting Notes

November 27, 2007

The City of Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee met on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland.

Members Present: Sheryl Gross-Glaser, Robert Patten, Greg Castano, Jay Lee, Katherine Kelly, Dan Turner, Margaret Warner, Wolfgang Mergner

Members Absent: Jay Ulfelder, Sanjay Grover

Staff Present: David Suls, Associate Planner

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:10.

2. Approval of Minutes: review and vote on adoption

The minutes from the October 16th, 2007 meeting were reviewed and adopted unanimously.

3. Action Items

Unmarked Crosswalks: Bob Patten read a Washington Post report on a girl hit by a school bus on Maple Avenue in November. The report included a statement from the Police that the girl was “outside a crosswalk” when she was hit. Bob wants to ensure that the Police are aware that there are unmarked crosswalks and that pedestrian accidents are accurately reported. Maryland law defines a crosswalk as “that part of the roadway that is within the prolongation or connection of the lateral lines of sidewalks at any place where 2 or more roadways of any type meet or join, measured from the curbs or, in the absence of curbs, from the edges of the roadway.” (21-101: f) Jay Lee suggested expanding the Committee’s outreach beyond the City Council and Police to the local papers by sending in an article.

Action: Bob will speak to Council on behalf of the SRC to ask the Police Chief to further educate the Police Department about unmarked crosswalks. Bob will also write a press release on unmarked crossings and Maryland’s pedestrian rights for the Gazette and Voice. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Takoma Park Elementary School: David Suls told the Committee that they may not write a letter directly to MCPS as was decided at the previous meeting. Because the SRC is an advisory committee they can advise City Council on communications with MCPS. The committee reviewed MCPS' November 20th design. Jay Lee and Bob Patten suggested an additional path from the corner of Philadelphia and the City parking lot to the school building. Dan Turner inquired about the parking situation on Holly Avenue and whether permit parking would help fix the congestion that will probably still exist after the site changes. Katherine Kelly voiced concern about the width of the new curb cut and pedestrian safety crossing it and if it is shown correctly on the plan because of the wide turning radius of a school bus. The entire committee agreed that the City should look carefully at the pedestrian safety impact of the proposed curb cut on Philadelphia and whether additional traffic calming measures such as a crossing guard at Birch Avenue will be needed.

Action: Sheryl Gross-Glaser will write a letter to the City Council for the Council Meeting on December 5th. The letter will be reviewed and approved by the committee via email. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

4. Announcements / Updates

Bicycle Wayfinding Signage: A subcommittee was created at the October meeting. Bob Patten explained the work of the subcommittee thus far and the plans for the following months. The subcommittee determined the major destinations and possible routes through the City for sign locations. The next step will be to refine the bike routes. Afterwards, the subcommittee will complete a sign schedule with specific sign locations and sign text.

Dan Turner asked whether there are any sources for bike trip data and Jay Lee pointed out that there are different users-recreational, commuters, etc. Bob suggested that the signs will be used more by novices because regular area cyclists will already have routes.

Katherine Kelly volunteered to join the subcommittee for the next steps.

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully Submitted

David Suls, Associate Planner

Approved

Robert Patten, Chair